REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12-15, 19, 20, 22, 23, 29, 33-35, 37, 42, 43, and 45-48 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 19, 20, 22, 23, 29, 33-35, 37, 42, 43, 45, and 48 have been allowed. Claims 13, 14, 46 and 47 are objected to as being of improper form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 4 was not mentioned in the Office Action of May 6, 2004, but was objected to in the Office Action of May 7, 2003, as being dependent on a rejected base claim; as the base claim (Claim 2) is now allowed, applicants believe that Claim 4 is now in condition for allowance. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form; the subject matter of claims 13 and 14 was found to be allowable in the Office Action of March 12, 2003. Claims 46 and 47 have been canceled.

If there are any outstanding issues, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for prompt resolution thereof.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1579(56.0503) in the amount of any applicable fees.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas O. Mitchell Reg. No. 47,800

Agent for Applicants

Date: May 0, 200 4
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